



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Water Quality Coordinating Committee Water Pollution Control Program

Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2002

WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

DNR Conference Complex
1738 E. Elm
Bennett Springs Conference Room
Jefferson City, Missouri

September 17, 2002
10:00 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA

West Nile Virus, Mark Buxton, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Status of 401 Water Quality Certifications, Becky Shannon, WPCP

Update of Rule Changes for the Near Future, Becky Shannon, WPCP

Other

Agency Activities

Meetings & Conferences

MISSOURI WATER QUALITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2002
1738 E. Elm Street
Bennett Springs Conference Room
Jefferson City, Missouri

Attendees:

Dorris Bender	City of Independence	Chris Zell	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Sharon Clifford	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Joe Dom	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Charles Putnam	National Park Service	Trent Stober	Midwest Env Consultants
Richard Gaffney	DNR/GSRAD/WRP	Loring Bullard	Watershed Comm of the Ozarks
Robert Brundage	Mo-Ag	Floyd Gilzow	Upper White River Basin Foundation
Don Yoest	Dept. of Ag	David Casaletto	Table Rock Lake WQ, Inc.
Cindy DeOrnellis	Dept. of Ag	Diana Sheridan	James River Basin Partnership
John Howland	Midwest Environmental Consultants	Claire Baffaut	UMC FAPRI
Gayle Unruh	MoDOT	Jackie Stewart	Platte Co. Reg. Sewer District
Anne Peery	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP	Chuck Reineke	Platte Co. Reg. Sewer District
Vicky Kugler	DNR/OAC/EAO	Richard Laux	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Linda Paule	Env Resources Coalition	Bob Hentges	MO Public Utility Alliance
Steve Taylor	MCGA/ERC	Tom Wagner	St. Charles Co. Env. Services
Paul Andre	Dept. of Ag	Miya Barr	USGS WRD
Bob Ball	USDA-NRCS	Gail Wilson	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Cindy DiStefano	MO Dept. of Conservation	Priscilla Stotts	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Verel Benson	UMC FAPRI	Donna Menown	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Kevin Dacey	MO Dept. of Conservation	Darlene Schaben	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Clif Baumer	USDA-NRCS	Becky Shannon	DNR/WPSCD/WPCP
Frank McDaniels	DNR/WPSCD/PDWP	Mark Buxton	Dept. of Health & Senior Services

Introductions were made. Becky Shannon chaired the meeting.

West Nile Virus, Mark Buxton, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services

Mark stated their department has been very busy and the West Nile Virus is probably here to stay. There have been dead birds all over the state that have tested positive for West Nile Virus. Also, mosquitoes caught in traps that have been placed in eleven counties have tested positive for the West Nile Virus. There have been 97 human cases and 2 deaths related to West Nile Virus. Less than 1% of people that have been bitten will develop severe symptoms. Only 20% of those infected will have any symptoms. CDC refers to this illness as West Nile Fever. The symptoms include, but are not limited to, slight fever with a headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph nodes. Approximately 50% of those could have nausea. Incubation period is about 3-15 days. The average age for having severe symptoms is 55 years old. If there is a severe illness, there is usually a rapid onset. Symptoms include a high fever, head and body aches, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, disorientation, tremors and convulsions and possibly a coma. This is due to West Nile encephalitis, which results in swelling of the brain. There is no treatment or cure for the West Nile Virus. The only treatment that is offered is supportive care but if you become ill you should see your doctor right away to get the supportive treatment.

One frequently asked question that their department received was about game animals and whether they are safe to eat. Mark said if the meat was cooked properly, there should be no problem. The problem would be if there would be a blood-to-blood contact with an open wound.

A vaccine for West Nile Virus is being worked on for humans. There is a vaccine for horses.

Mark mentioned there are several kinds of mosquitoes. Some species of mosquitoes do not like to bite humans and thus far have not transmitted any diseases. The “house mosquito” is an aggressive mosquito that does like to bite humans. They also like organic polluted waters. They are not long-range flyers. The females need a blood meal to lay their eggs. They lay 6-7 times in their life cycle, which lasts 40-50 days and lays approximately 200-300 eggs. Females are the ones that bite. Their eggs look like a fleck of soot.

There are several different species of mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus that have different habits. There isn't just one method that can be used to control the problem. Mark talked about the different species of mosquitoes and some of their habits. Some like to breed in old tires, flower pots, aluminum cans, even a discarded cigarette package that contains a small amount of water.

One cause for the spreading West Nile Virus is that some mosquitoes feed on birds. Those infected birds migrate therefore spreading the virus to that area.

The department has received several questions about mosquito control. They suggest fixing window screens making sure they can't get into the house. Anything around your house that holds water would need to be periodically emptied out, like flowerpots, old tires, clean out gutters. CDC is recommending use of 50% deet for adults and 10% for children over 2 years old. Keep the grass cut. BTI, which attacks the larvae, could also be used for standing water or around ponds. If insecticides are used, directions need to be followed carefully and closely. Permethrine can be used to spray on your clothes. It is recommended to wear long sleeve shirts and pants when you need to be outdoors.

Mark had a mosquito “grab-it” trap to show the group and explained how it worked. They also use CDC light traps. They are hoping to trap more of the mosquitoes that feed during the day to see if they too carry the virus. They have been looking at where the mosquito pools are and what types of mosquitoes are carrying what types of viruses. St. Louis is using traps.

Municipalities can call Mark or the local health department to coordinate trapping in their county. Natural controls such as dragonflies and fish are not enough to control the mosquito population.

A question was asked about the concern of animals, other than birds and horses, that may be a virus carrier. Mark stated that rabbits and other game animals may be carriers. There would need to be blood-to-blood contact for others, like cats or dogs, to contract the virus. Still, the mosquito is the biggest danger.

At the department's web site, www.dhss.state.mo.us, click on the red “West Nile Virus” on the left-hand side for information.

A question was asked about the length of time it takes for medical personnel to receive information on whether an individual has the virus or not. Commercial laboratories that work with hospitals usually can have test results returned within 3 days. It is reportable so the Department of Health & Senior Services will know of the pending case. It's important that an affected person with severe symptoms get the support care as soon as possible.

Specific questions on pesticides use can be referred to the Department of Agriculture or to your local health department.

Status of 401 Water Quality Certifications, Becky Shannon, WPCP

To receive a 401 water quality certification, one must apply for a 404 permit through the Corps of Engineers for dredge and fill activities when they are impacting jurisdictional waters. A 401 water quality certification is

a determination by the state as to whether the project would potentially violate state water quality standards. Projects are reviewed and approved or denied and sometimes conditions are put on the project that would protect water quality in the state. The Corps has nationwide permits (NWP) for certain activities that have or are expected to have minimal impact on the environment. The NWPs were set up with Missouri Department of Natural Resources' conditions attached. A permit application to the Corp for a permit would result in the applicant receiving the state and federal certification in one package. The NWPs were reissued recently by the Corps. The Corps elected not to accept the conditions that Missouri asked for; therefore making NWPs denied in Missouri. The WPCP staff has been working with the COE to reconsider our revised conditions.

When NWPs were no longer in effect, all 401 certification became individual certifications. By state law a \$75 fee is required to be assessed. The preference is to go through the NWP process. WPCP staff are working with the COE and should eventually have most of the general NWPs back in place. Becky stated that based on conversations with the COE she is confident that we will end up with most of the NWPs that existed last year. It was requested that an update on the nationwide permits be given to the group at a meeting in the near future. The procedures for the 401 process are currently being reviewed.

There is now a 401 web page available at <http://www.dnr.state.mo.us/wpscd/wpcp/401/wpcp-401.htm>. This will also link to the COE application form and the list of specific information that the state needs for the 401 water quality certification. Three technical staff currently do technical review, environmental site assessments, etc. The application checklist has been approved by the Clean Water Commission and is on the web site.

Update of Rule Changes for the Near Future

Stormwater Rule, Richard Laux, WPCP – The rules are effective and have been promulgated and been through public participation. Currently, the draft general permit for certain MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) cities that have to be permitted under Phase II is on public notice. Public comment period has been extended twice and are now due by October 4. The application forms are available on Internet along with information for cities that want to submit an individual permit. No applications have been received but several cities are known to be working on them. It was requested that the list of cities that was an Appendix to the rule be sent to the group.

There are federal opportunities for the public to petition the department to require certain entities to obtain a permit or asking that the area be required to not require a permit if they fit established criteria. A petition has been received regarding the City of Ashland to obtain an MS4 permit. Richard stated it should be decided locally whether universities, airports, state or federal-owned facilities would be required to obtain a separate storm water permit. Several universities have contacted cities and want to piggyback onto the application from the city.

Other questions can be directed to the WPCP Permits Section or the appropriate Regional Office.

Water Quality Standards, Becky Shannon, WPCP - The EPA evaluated and commented on the department's Water Quality Standards. EPA felt that the issues of whole body contact, dissolved oxygen, and high flow exemptions were not in accordance with the Clean Water Act. DNR has discussed with EPA the potential of delaying the designation of streams for whole body contact that was going to be addressed in the first phase of the rulemaking process to the second phase. There is an opportunity to substitute the use of fecal coliform as the bacterial indicator to e. coli. This has not previously been discussed at stakeholder meetings. This is the direction the department is planning but no decisions have been made on any of these discussions. There was also discussion to delay addressing high flow exemptions because our department and other states want the opportunity to make a counter proposal to EPA. The internal Phase I rulemaking package should be ready by late November. Ammonia standards, metals criteria and alternative recreational use classification system as opposed to whole body contact are other issues being addressed in Phase I.

EPA CAFO Rule, Robert Brundage - Robert stated that EPA published their 2nd notice of data availability in the Federal Register early this summer. The comment period closed approximately a month ago. The question to be answered is: should EPA consider allowing CAFOs, under certain circumstances, to discharge to a no-discharging facility if they were to use new innovative technology. EPA is under court order to have the final rulemaking by December.

Other

Funding Opportunities, Becky Shannon, WPCP

Becky reminded the group that the 319 Request for Proposals for nonpoint source grants are due in November. There will be a grant training in September.

The 604(b) grant Request for Proposals was sent to Region Planning Commissions (RPCs). If interested, contact your area RPC. The deadline for submittal is October 25.

The federal Watershed Initiative grant funding from EPA is also available. Procedures are being developed for applying for funding. This information will be sent to the group by email. Becky had copies of the Fact Sheet describing the Initiative and the checklist for nominations. The Federal Register Notice has additional information.

Outreach and Assistance Center, Llona Weiss

Llona is the Deputy Director of the Outreach and Assistance Center (OAC). Llona brought brochures giving information about the OAC. The back of the brochure shows the different offices within OAC and the type of assistance they provide. Information inside the brochure answers most all questions you may have about the OAC. The OAC phone number is 800-361-4827.

Agency Activities

Verel Benson had available an Environmental Report produced by FAPRI.

Dick Gaffney – The Interagency Task Force on the State Water Plan will meet Sept. 25 at Elm Street to discuss the northwest region of the state (KCRO area).

Meetings & Conferences

Sept	19-20	KC, Region 7 Environmental Safety Symposium
	21	1 st Stream Team Regional Conference, St. Louis
	24	Missouri Show-Me Chapter of SWCS Fall Forum, at Governor's Office Building, Jefferson City "Wetlands in Missouri - Challenges, Problems or Opportunities"
	28	Missouri River Clean-Up, Hartsburg, Bush's Landing
Oct	12	Missouri River Clean-Up, St. Charles
Nov	13-16	National TMDL Science & Policy Conference, Phoenix, AZ
	22-24	Environmental Education Conference, Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach